

TO TEACH WHO CHRIST IS

A Newsletter for the Campaign for Parishes, Catholic Education and Faith Formation

March 2020

Reflection During the Weeks Leading Up to Easter

With the Lenten season well underway, we pray you've had time to focus on your faith, relationship with Jesus and the ways we can all continue to work together spreading the Gospel during this precious time. Lent and Easter call us to gather together in reflecting on God's love for us, His faithfulness in our personal lives and the advances He has allowed us to make through the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign."

It's through God's provision and the donors of the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign that many parishes are able to host Lenten and Easter masses in updated facilities and teach the future of our Church about the sacrifice Jesus made for us through religious education classes and school programming.

We are extremely grateful for your support and positivity around the campaign. Your generosity allows us to continue teaching who Christ is.

To Teach Who Christ Is Campaign Q&A Continued

After completing our newsletter survey and providing donors with an opportunity to share feedback, we gathered a handful of questions donors had regarding the campaign. Please see below for some of the common questions we received. If you have additional questions regarding the *To Teach Who Christ Is* campaign or newsletter, please contact toteachcampaign@archchicago.org.

I would like to learn more details about scholarship programs. Is it applicable to non-diocesan high schools?

True to Cardinal George's emphasis on Catholic education, the campaign exceeded its goal of \$150 million in pledges toward a scholarship endowment—the Catholic Education Scholarship Trust (CEST). Recognizing that an endowment would take several years to provide our schools with much needed funds, \$19 million has been awarded as Caritas Scholarships. The remaining \$137.7 million pledged is committed toward the Trust. Since 2016, more than 1,700 Phoenix Scholarships have been awarded from the Trust for an average of \$1,550 per student. As the Trust grows, the intention is to award additional, and hopefully larger, scholarships over time.

After the Catholic Education Scholarship Trust endowment fund has been invested and income is available, scholarships awards are given to qualified students enrolled at archdiocese Catholic schools in Cook and Lake counties. Parishes and communities with the resources to assist their own families and students are asked to do so to ensure these valuable resources are available to parishes and communities with the greatest need.



Pictured above are Brenda Gonzalez and her two children. She is extremely grateful to campaign donors for giving her daughter the opportunity to attend Catholic school.

Have you addressed the *Chicago Tribune* article?

Yes, we did address the article in our August edition of the newsletter. As we stated in a letter from Brendan Keating, chief development officer, you may have seen reports in the media raising questions about the financial management of the campaign. We want to reassure you that your donations are being used for the purposes set forth in the campaign case statement and that your intentions have been honored.

Facts about the *TTWCI* campaign you should know include:

- Campaign funds are used only for designated campaign programs or other purposes as specified by donors.

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- Campaign initiatives are funded according to donor intent and reflect the amount of funds collected thus far. This means that at any given time amounts distributed to programs can differ from the original goals for each program as a result of donor intent, timing of collections, and the mix of parish results for parish campaigns.
- Donors supported two major scholarship initiatives for Catholic school students as part of the campaign:
 - 1. The Catholic Education Scholarship Trust (CEST):** More than 1,800 scholarships, valued at \$2.7 million, have already been awarded from CEST, and the endowment will continue to grow and support Catholic students in perpetuity.
 - 2. The Caritas Scholarship Fund (Caritas):** To date, \$18 million has been awarded from the Caritas fund to support over 10,000 scholarships.

Collectively, these two programs distribute approximately \$4 million in scholarships each year to families. In addition, as a result of the recent Illinois tax credit scholarship legislation, an additional \$13.7 million was raised last year, providing 3,650 additional scholarships.

- Several independent agencies and individuals review archdiocesan campaign finances, including the lay Archdiocesan Finance Council, the CEST Trust Board, and Deloitte.
- Campaign and administrative expenses are well within accepted benchmarks. Expenses for the campaign totaled six percent of pledged funds, and the administrative costs for the Catholic Education Scholarship Trust average less than two percent per year.

Detailed reports on the campaign, CEST, and the Caritas Scholarship Fund are available on giving.archchicago.org/to-teach-who-christ-is/about-the-campaign/summary. Please feel free to contact the Department of Stewardship and Development anytime at 312.534.8500 or archchicago@archchicago.org with questions or concerns.

What is being done with the money towards building Catholic catechism? How does campaign support faith formation in parishes without schools?

More than 90,000 elementary and secondary school children are enrolled in religious education programs in parishes throughout Cook and Lake counties. In addition, parishes provide religious education to teens through youth ministry as well as to adults, including



Pictured above is the Cuevas family who are missionaries grateful for the Caritas scholarship because without it, their children would not be able to receive quality Catholic education.

those seeking to enrich their journey with Christ or join our faith through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. This is an area the campaign supports faith formation in parishes without schools.

The archdiocese requires religious education directors and coordinators, as well as youth ministers, to be certified. *To Teach Who Christ Is* funds are being directed to formation programs leading to archdiocesan certification of these catechetical leaders.

A major component of this supported funding to launch My Catholic Faith Delivered (mycatholicfaithdelivered.org), the online catechist certification program that provides a flexible platform to achieve Archdiocesan certification. The program is available in Spanish and English and features three levels of online formation. More than 4,000 catechists have been trained, reaching about 50,000 children across the Archdiocese.

Do campaign funds cover the vocation program for youth?

The campaign supports a handful of youth ministry programs, including youth minister formation (\$25,000 in campaign funds), scholarships for Holy Fire (\$80,000 in campaign funds), scholarships for the National Catholic Youth Conference (\$50,000 in campaign funds) and Theology on Tap (\$75,000 in campaign funds). All of these evangelization programs support our youth ministry and lead them to many faith-forming experiences and a closer relationship with God. To learn more about these programs supported by the campaign, please visit pvm.archchicago.org/lifelong-formation/youth-and-young-adult-ministry/youth-ministry.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Overall Campaign Goal: \$350,000,000

Total Raised to Date: \$425,547,705*

Percent of Goal Pledged: 122%

Pledges Paid to Date: \$251,665,384

Percent Paid to Date: 72%

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*includes cash, documented pledges and bequests



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